

REMARKS

Please reconsider the present application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering the present application and indicating that claims 23, 24, and 26-34 contain allowable subject matter.

I. Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-41 are currently pending in the present application.¹

II. Amendments to the Specification

The Specification has been amended to claim the benefit of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/638,338.

III. Rejection(s) Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-22, 25, and 35-41 of the present application were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,420,903 issued to Singh et al. (hereinafter "Singh"). For the reasons set forth below, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

As indicated in Section II above and the Petition Under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) enclosed herewith, the present application has been amended to claim benefit of the filing date of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/638,338, filed August 14, 2000. Thus, at least with respect to the rejected claimed subject matter, Singh is not prior art to the


¹ Applicant notes that pages 1 and 2 of the final Office Action of March 11, 2005 incorrectly state that claims 1-30 are pending in the present application.

present application. Accordingly, withdrawal of the § 102 rejections is respectfully requested.

IV. Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places the present application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 03226.049001; P5243).

Respectfully submitted,



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